



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

9:00 AM

Present: President Afriat, Vice President Campbell, Secretary Vasquez
and Commissioner Lee

Absent: Commissioner Barger

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (11-5129)

The meeting was called to order by President Afriat at 9:05 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance. (11-5130)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Afriat.

3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of October 26, 2011. (11-5212)

**On motion of Vice President Campbell, seconded by President Afriat, the
minutes of October 26, 2011 were approved.**

Ayes: 4 - President Afriat, Vice President Campbell, Secretary
Vasquez and Commissioner Lee

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PUBLIC HEARING

Note: President Afriat called Agenda No. 5, 6 and 7 before Agenda No. 4.

4. Hearing on application for Bingo Manager Business License ID# 138622 to issue
a new bingo manager license to Violina Peapea Brown, Samoan Federation of
America located at 833 W. Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90502 in the Second
District. (11-4980)

**This item was tabled for discussion later in the meeting to allow the
applicant time to arrive.**

Later in the meeting, in the absence of the applicant, on motion of President Afriat, seconded by Secretary Vasquez, this item was taken off calendar.

Ayes: 4 - President Afriat, Vice President Campbell, Secretary Vasquez and Commissioner Lee

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. DISCUSSION

5. Discussion and possible action of reconsideration or rehearing of the final action for Public Eating Business License ID #133203 for Rosa Delgado, Alma's Café & Bar, located at 3837-39, Whittier Blvd., CA 90023 in the First District. (11-4034)

President Afriat disclosed that Tony Blain, Attorney for Alma's Café is an acquaintance of his through past associations and stated that this relation has no conflict of interest.

He explained that the Commission has the right to reconsider action taken at a previous hearing at a subsequently scheduled hearing and can be done so by request of a Commissioner or a member of the public.

He clarified that the only action to be taken on this item is the decision to reconsider the Commission's previous action and set the matter for a future hearing to consider in greater detail. If the Commission decides to not take any action, the previous decision is upheld.

Tony Blain, Attorney for Rosa Delgado, owner of Alma's Café provided a brief history of the property and his involvement. He requested the Commission reconsider their decision and hold a hearing on December 14, 2011 to evaluate and vote on the renewal of the license.

Mr. Blain described the property as an institution for its long standing history and a justifiable reason for giving Alma's Café another chance. He explained that he is working on a New Operations report for the business and will be prepared to present this plan as outlined with the following primary components on December 14th:

- **Assembly of a new team**
- **Law Enforcement and Security:**
 - **William Welker, retired Lieutenant from the Los Angeles County**

Sheriff's Department will be lead on the security component.

He stated that Alma's Café is very serious about making positive changes and addressing the legitimate concerns raised at the previous hearing. He explained that Alma's Café's ill preparation at the previous hearing was partly due to a lack of understanding of the seriousness of the issues.

Secretary Vasquez requested a written outline of the plan.

In response to Secretary Vasquez' request of a written outline, Mr. Blain reiterated the security component of the plan. He informed the Commission that Alma's Café has installed exterior security cameras.

President Afriat acknowledged the impressiveness of the team assembled to prepare the New Operations Plan however he stated concerns that Alma's Café will not be able to execute this plan once this team is no longer in place.

Mr. Blain indicated that the plan will provide in detail the ongoing Security and Operations and Control components. Additionally, the plan includes a new management structure and options of adding security personnel at the location. He stated that a significant factor to be considered is that alcohol sales will no longer be apart of the business. The bar and all bar related fixtures will be removed and the business will operate solely as a family restaurant. Rosa Delgado's daughters will be responsible for the operations and management of the facility keeping the integrity of a family restaurant.

Discussion over the standards and procedures of conditioning the Alma's Café managers with the same guidelines required by managers under an entertainment license ensued.

Mr. Blain stated that should this be a condition, the daughter's are willing to go through this process.

Vice President Campbell, questioned Mr. Blain's knowledge of testimony from the October 26, 2011 hearing and stated that issues being addressed had been discussed at the previous hearing and Ms. Delgado was well informed at that time of these issues. She added that information on the backgrounds and intentions of the daughters as managers would have been of interest in contemplating the decision for reconsideration.

Mr. Blain suggested that should the license be renewed the license could be subject to conditions of immediate revocation in the event that the business does anything inappropriate by County standards.

Secretary Vasquez stated her concerns that the outline of the new plan was not comprehensive nor did the outline address the management of the tenants Ms. Delgado subleases to.

President Afriat shared his expectation of evidence and plans brought by Alma's Café for consideration.

Mr. Welker addressed the law enforcement issues and pointed out that the majority of reports and observations by the Sheriff were alcohol related and the elimination of alcohol sales will have an impact in decreasing incidents at the location.

Discussion over the business culture and relative criminal activity ensued.

Commissioners Lee, Campbell and Vasquez stated their lack of confidence in Alma's Café's ability to execute the new operations plan.

Secretary Vasquez did not make a motion to reconsider the action taken. The Commission action of October 26, 2011 was upheld.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
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IV. REPORT

6. Commissioners' Comments. (11-5208)

The Commission reviewed the process of staff sending information to the Commission and agreed the current process is efficient.

Staff announced to the Commission that a link to listen to the Audio recording of meetings will now be provided in the minutes.

The Commission reviewed the calendar for December 2011. The Commission agreed to cancel the meetings of December 7 and 28, 2011 and planned for January 4, 2012 to be the organizational meeting starting at 11:00 a.m.

V. MISCELLANEOUS**Public Comment**

7. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee. (11-5210)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

8. Adjournment for the meeting of November 30, 2011. (11-5211)

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2011.

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